

pregnancy and whether the young woman returns to school and continues to pursue an education and career.

But it is the best interests of all—mother, child and community—that we help our children to delay pregnancy and the duties of parenthood, so that they themselves can continue to grow and develop and deal effectively with the many difficult issues of adolescence. This is necessary to provide healthy and productive adults. Furthermore, the children of adolescents are generally being raised by persons who are children themselves, without the benefit of the extended families of years past. They just don't have the parenting skills or the tolerance with maturity, and the children they raise demonstrate these deficiencies.

Therefore, what we need to do is to fix our neighborhoods, provide a good public educational system, to make sure that there are comprehensive health facilities which are accessible to the entire family, and to open up opportunities for self-fulfillment other than parenthood. For many of our youngsters, there is nothing else, and that is our fault, not theirs.

#### PROBLEMS WITH THE FREEDOM FROM GOVERNMENT COMPETITION ACT

#### HON. BRUCE F. VENTO

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 22, 1998*

Mr. VENTO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 716. Simply put, this legislation states the Government's role and service function is for sale. The current draft, which was the subject of a joint House-Senate hearing on May 24, would replace the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Circular A-76 Cost Comparison study. This detailed review process is the current system for competing and comparing commercial services between federal employees and contractor employees. The revised H.R. 716 turns out less objective and more ideological. Furthermore, this new policy provides a bias toward contracting out and would place the Government's role and service function up for bid over a 5 year period.

Currently, the federal government contracts out \$110 billion annually. Under the policy of H.R. 716, the absence of sound Cost Comparison studies would allow private contractors to receive work without competing against federal workers. This simply results in a loss of federal employee jobs and questionable cost savings for taxpayers. What kind of message does Congress relay to a hard working federal workforce in our Districts and across the nation after their outstanding participation in the Vice President's reinventing government program? We should provide adequate resources and tools necessary to our valued federal employees.

H.R. 716 has three flaws:

(1) This legislation would replace the OMB Circular A-76 Cost Comparison study in favor of a pro-contractor system. Currently, federal employees regularly lose the competitions conducted under the OMB Circular A-76. Only a few years ago, federal employees lost approximately 70% of all contracts. Thanks to the continuing efforts of federal employees to reinvent themselves, they now win one-half of

the public-private competitions. This dramatic change in fortunes for the contractors has inspired this recent legislative effort to do away with the OMB Circular A-76.

(2) This legislation would make public-private competitions subject to work which is inherently governmental. H.R. 716 would allow contractors to protest agencies' decisions to keep work in-house. In addition, this bill would allow contractors to challenge agency awards in federal claims court. As might be expected, federal employees would be forbidden from both challenging agencies' decisions about what is inherently governmental and would be bullied by the threat of costly and protracted litigation into contracting out as much work as possible. Decisions about awards and what is inherently governmental should continue to be made by department officials who are most familiar with the services actually provided.

(3) This legislation would mandate public-private competitions under a pro-contractor successor to the Cost Comparison study regardless of how well federal employees are actually performing their jobs.

After 12 years of Reagan-Bush political appointees, who largely disdained the public sector and racked up the largest service contracting out bills in the nation's history, it is difficult to argue that the reason more work has not been contracted out is to protect federal employees. Federal employees consistently and efficiently deliver the needs of service department customers at the prices taxpayers can afford. If federal employees are performing satisfactorily, then there is no need to impose public-private competitions.

Finally, the savings generated from this disruptive system of competitions would be short-lived and could very well disappear soon thereafter. Work contracted out is unlikely to ever be brought back in house because of the expense of recapitalizing in house capability and reassembling and retraining the necessary staff.

Moreover, this legislation fails to address several very serious problems:

Arbitrary personnel ceilings are already forcing work to be contracted out. Federal agencies do not have enough employees, so they simply contract out the work without any public-private cost comparisons. The size of the federal workforce has been dramatically reduced. Ironically, the American people have not been told federal employees are being replaced with contractor employees, often at greater expense.

Champions of contracting out say that private sector firms generate savings for taxpayers by devising more efficient ways of delivering services. However, some contracting out is done to devise better ways of delivering services and reducing their incentive to provide substandard wages and benefits. Today, the economy is booming and the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) projects a budget surplus between \$48 and \$68 billion. However, income distribution grows worse and worse. How can the federal government justify replacing workers and middle class Americans with poorly paid, contingent workers?

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 716 is a pro-contractor bill that simply states the Government is for sale. Therefore, I urge my Colleagues to oppose this radical measure.

#### AIDS AWARENESS DAY IN SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

#### HON. LOIS CAPPs

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 22, 1998*

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize June 5th, 1998 as "AIDS Awareness Day" in Santa Barbara County. I particularly want to honor the over three thousand bicycle riders participating in the 1998 "AIDS Ride" from San Francisco to Los Angeles.

This outstanding effort runs directly through my district. In the city of Santa Barbara, the ride attracts thousands of well-wishers, bringing much-needed awareness to this deadly disease. It is the result of thousands of hours of work, and the desire of thousands of individuals to improve treatment and find a cure for AIDS.

It is currently estimated that by the year 2000, 26.6 million people in the world could be living with the AIDS virus. We must do all we possibly can to encourage steps that both educate people about the disease, and help those who have been affected with it. Recognizing June 15th, 1998 as "AIDS Awareness Day" in Santa Barbara County is a way we can help recognize all the brave people involved in this noble effort.

#### RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE CONGRESS ON TIBET

#### HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 22, 1998*

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce with Mr. PORTER, Ms. MALONEY, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Mr. LANTOS, Mr. ROHRBACHER, Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. GILMAN, Mr. WOLF, Mr. COX, Mr. SMITH, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. KENNEDY (MA), and Ms. PELOSI, a House Concurrent Resolution expressing the sense of the Congress concerning the December 1997 report on Tibet of the International Commission of Jurists and on United States policy on Tibet.

This resolution reflects our serious concern for the plight of the Tibetan people and our strong support for the Dalai Lama's efforts to enter into serious discussions with the Chinese leadership on the future of Tibet.

The resolution cites a recent and comprehensive report by the International Committee of Jurists entitled "Tibet: Human Rights and the Rule of Law." It is the fourth report on Tibet by this distinguished body since 1959 and their first since 1964. The December 1997 report was inspired by the situation in Tibet that by all credible accounts, including the Department of State, remains unsettled and in many ways has grown more desperate.

I understand that Tibet, and more specifically the dialogue between the Dalai Lama and the Chinese leadership, is to be an important issue during the upcoming visit of President Clinton to Beijing. I hope that progress on Tibet will be made at the summit and this resolution is an effort to encourage that progress. Secretary Albright presented a strong case for progress on the dialogue in the summit preparatory meetings she held in Beijing earlier this month.

This resolution is a sign of support by the Congress for the Administration's efforts to encourage a dialogue between the Dalai Lama and Chinese leaders and a signal to Beijing that a positive response from President Jiang to the Administration's proposal would be welcomed by the Congress. It is appropriate that the Congress which has been in the forefront of support for the Tibetan people should go on the record in support of the Administration's summit agenda in regard to Tibet. Positive action by the Chinese would go far to demonstrate to the Congress that a policy of engagement with China is productive and important.

Finally, I would like to draw the House's attention to the continuing detention of Gendun Choekyi Nyima. Three years ago this month, the Dalai Lama announced the recognition of this young boy, then only six, as the Panchen Lama of Tibet. Within days, this child disappeared from his home. It was not until a year later that the Chinese Ambassador to Geneva admitted to a meeting of the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child that Gendun Choekyi Nyima was under the "protection" of the Chinese government. Repeated requests from governments and private humanitarian organizations to meet with the boy have been denied. No one knows where he is nor the conditions under which he lives. It is unconscionable that in today's world a young child, now nine years old, has apparently become a pawn in Beijing's political efforts to control Tibet.

I urge my colleagues to join me in introducing this resolution which calls for the release of Gendun Choekyi Nyima, the 11th Panchen Lama of Tibet, and for a dialogue between the Dalai Lama and Chinese authorities.

#### 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BROOKS SCHOOL

#### HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 22, 1998*

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize The Brooks School in Medford, Massachusetts in the celebration of its 100th Anniversary. During its century-long presence in the Medford community, The Brooks School has set innovative standards in excellence and diversity in public education through its programs of intellectual, physical, and social development of children.

On May 30, 1998, The Brooks School will be holding a public celebration to honor its rich history of instruction and service to the young people of Medford. The undying commitment of The Brooks School to excellence in diverse public education should serve as an inspiration to us all.

I congratulate the students, alumni, and faculty of The Brooks School for perpetuating effective education in the Medford community, and I wish them continued success in the future.

#### TRIBUTE TO OUR VETERANS

#### HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 22, 1998*

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, I am proud of the many Veterans who live in north Alabama, and of the many men and women who are currently serving in the armed forces.

I am honored to be a guest Saturday of The Gadsden-Etowah Patriots Association, who are currently raising funds for a new outdoor museum. This museum will be a valuable addition, a way of celebrating the American way of life and the blessings of being part of a community. It is also a means of teaching young people that the freedom we enjoy has come at a price.

I commend the President of the association, Andy Chaffin, and the members whose teamwork is making this memorial a reality.

Memorial Day brings to mind the opportunity to lay flowers at monuments and at graves. It is also, however, an opportunity to thank veterans who are still with us, such as General Clarence Rhea, Congressional Medal of Honor winner Olan Mize, and State of Alabama Veterans Association Representative Rick Vaughn.

Although the date and location of the first Memorial Day is disputed, I am just grateful each year for the opportunity to pause and reflect on the gift of freedom bestowed upon us by our veterans.

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE HUMAN SERVICES AMENDMENTS OF 1998

#### HON. MATTHEW G. MARTINEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 22, 1998*

Mr. MARTINEZ. Mr. Speaker, on May 14, I introduced the Human Services Amendments of 1998. This legislation will reauthorize and strengthen the Head Start, Low-Income Home Energy Assistance (LIHEAP) and Community Service Block Grant (CSBG) programs. When Congress last reauthorized these programs in 1994 it was the product of true bipartisan negotiations. I strongly believe that this bill is one which can capture the same bipartisan spirit.

The last reauthorization cycle produced major successful structural changes in these programs, eliminating the current need for an expansive rewrite of each statute. Presently these programs are working well and do not need significant modification. Instead of implementing wholesale change, this legislation builds upon the positive changes made in 1994 allowing the good work presently being done to continue.

Title I of the bill amends the Head Start Program. This legislation will refine Head Start's focus in two major areas—improving the transition of children from Head Start programs to school by strengthening the coordination between Head Start programs and schools and increasing the financial resources available and access to Early Head Start programs. The bill would increase the setaside for Early Head Start to 10%, with the stipulation that funds not be taken from current Head Start programs. The legislation would also allow expan-

sion grants to be used by existing Head Start grantees to expand service to the Early Head Start population. Significant research has shown the importance of brain development in young children and an increased focus on intervening in a young child's life during the most sensitive of years is vitally important.

In improving the transition of children from Head Start programs to school, the bill would also require Head Start programs to coordinate services with the educational services of the local education agency projected to serve the children enrolled in their programs. The legislation would also require that the Secretary, in considering the expansion of Head Start programs, to consider the extent to which Head Start programs will coordinate services with local education agencies. Both of these provisions will ensure that the educational experiences and cognitive development gained by children in Head Start programs are not lost when they progress through school.

In addition, the bill improves the access of children with disabilities to quality programs and ensures that Head start programs maximize their enrollment and resources and increase flexibility to deal with the transition of families from welfare to work by allowing the Secretary to permit up to 25% of enrollees in a Head Start program to be from families with incomes above the poverty line.

Title II of the bill amends LIHEAP. This legislation will maintain LIHEAP's focus on serving low-income individuals with the highest proportion of energy expenses. In addition, this bill reinforces that weatherization and energy-related home repair should be directed to low-income households, particularly those households with the lowest incomes and the highest proportion of household income for home energy. With this increased targeted emphasis on the poorest of our poor, the weatherization portion of LIHEAP will truly help those most in need.

Title III of the bill amends CSBG. Similar to the other two programs, a significant rewrite is not necessary, but the legislation does make several changes designed to improve the program. The bill raises the authorization level of the program by over \$100 million to \$650 million in FY 1999 and such sums in FYs 2000–2002. This will ensure that the significant increases in appropriations which this program has received in the last few years can be repeated. Also, the bill would give preference to private, non-profit organizations should an existing entity running a local program authorized under the statute terminate. In addition, this legislation would provide that CSBG carry-over funds are reprogrammed at the local level. For each of the last three years similar language has been attached to the Labor-HHS Appropriations bill requiring this provision. Lastly, the measure would allow local community action agencies to offer services to improve literacy in the community. This would be a new activity for local community action agencies to address the illiteracy—one of the most pressing problems and indicators of poverty in our nation today.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I would like to stress that I believe this legislation is the beginning of another historic bipartisan effort to reauthorize and strengthen these programs. I urge all members of Congress to join me in supporting this legislation and to support the bill which will be the eventual product of our joint bipartisan discussions.